



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Boston Public Library

<http://www.archive.org/details/nationalstatereg00mass>

BCA
2950MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of StateMEMORANDUM

TO: PROPERTY OWNERS

FROM: VALERIE A. TALMAGE, ^{V.T.} EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

RE: THE NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE: June 27, 1983

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Your property has been proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the Nation's official list of important cultural resources. The National Register includes buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects which retain their integrity and reflect some significant aspect of local, state or national history. Listing in the National Register places no constraints on what owners may do with their property when using private funds. The main purpose of the National Register is to recognize the value of historic and prehistoric properties, and to protect listed properties from federal undertakings. A letter fully describing the ramifications of the program and your right to object to listing is attached. (12/1/83)

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

If your property is accepted or determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register, it will automatically be listed in the State Register of Historic Places. The State Register, established in 1982, is a compilation of eight different types of local, state and national historic designations. Included are all properties determined eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, all local historic districts, all local, state and national landmarks, and all properties for which the Massachusetts Historical Commission holds or has approved a preservation restriction. Approximately 30,000 properties are currently designated.

The State Register closely parallels the National Register in intent by establishing a review process to ensure that designated properties are not inadvertently or knowingly harmed by state undertakings. Specifically, the State Register provides a framework for state agencies, the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the public to consider the impact of proposed state actions on State Register properties and to explore alternatives to actions which will have a detrimental effect.

Neither the state or federal procedures guarantee that cultural resources will be preserved. Rather, they ensure that the historic values of listed properties will be considered during the planning stages of any state or federally sponsored project. The regulations implementing the State Register are 950 CMR 71:00.

For more information on the National Register, the State Register or other preservation programs of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, please contact this office. FOR PROPERTIES IN BOSTON, call the BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION
725-3850.

We sincerely hope that you will consent to the listing of your property in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

MA Historical Commission
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, culture and engineering is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purpose, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE for the National Register. However, such properties WILL QUALIFY if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with an historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of an historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

(circa 1962)

